



## CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE COST ESTIMATE

November 5, 1999

### **Federal Reports Elimination and Sunset Act Amendments of 1999**

*As ordered reported by the Senate Committee on Governmental Affairs  
on November 3, 1999*

Subject to the availability of appropriated funds, CBO estimates that implementing the bill would not significantly increase annual federal reporting costs. Because the legislation would not affect direct spending or receipts, pay-as-you-go procedures would not apply. This bill contains intergovernmental mandates as defined in the Unfunded Mandates Reform Act (UMRA); however, CBO estimates that the costs to state and local governments would not be significant and would not exceed the threshold established in the act (\$50 million in 1996, adjusted annually for inflation). The legislation contains no private-sector mandates as defined in UMRA.

Beginning on December 21, 1999, the Federal Reports Elimination and Sunset Act of 1995 generally terminates regular periodic reporting requirements established in 1992 or before. This bill would exempt 12 specific reports from elimination, as well as any other report that relates to the budget of the federal government. In addition, the legislation would clarify that the sunset provision included in the 1995 act applies only to reports with regular time intervals and not to reports that are triggered by specific events. Finally, the legislation would extend by four months the authority granted to the Director of the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) under the Government Management Reform Act of 1994 (GMRA) to consolidate certain financial management reports.

CBO expects that agencies would continue to submit most, if not all, of the reports listed in the legislation. For instance, the bill includes the annual budget and related reports submitted by the President; reports relating to the budget enforcement and sequestration process under the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act; the decennial census report that provides the basis for apportioning seats in the U.S. House of Representatives; the requirement that the District of Columbia submit its budget to the Congress, which is the basis for its annual appropriation; and the Administration's annual report on implementing the Federal Paperwork Reduction Act. Consequently, CBO estimates that, subject to the availability of appropriated funds, any increase in costs from exempting the reports would not be significant.

In addition, we expect few reports with irregular time intervals would continue under this bill and that the additional costs of continuing such reports would not be significant. Finally, based on information from OMB, CBO estimates that the amount of savings in 2000 from temporarily extending the Administration's authority under GMRA would be negligible. Any change in spending from either provision would be subject to the availability of appropriated funds.

Under current law, state executives must report Presidential election results to the National Archivist, and the Mayor of the District of Columbia must submit its budget to the President. These reporting requirements on state executives and the mayor would sunset under current law, but would be continued under this bill. Restoring these requirements would be mandates as defined in UMRA, but the costs would not be significant and would not exceed the UMRA threshold (\$50 million in 1996, adjusted annually for inflation).

The CBO staff contacts are John R. Righter (for federal costs) and Susan Sieg (for the state and local impact). This estimate was approved by Peter H. Fontaine, Deputy Assistant Director for Budget Analysis.